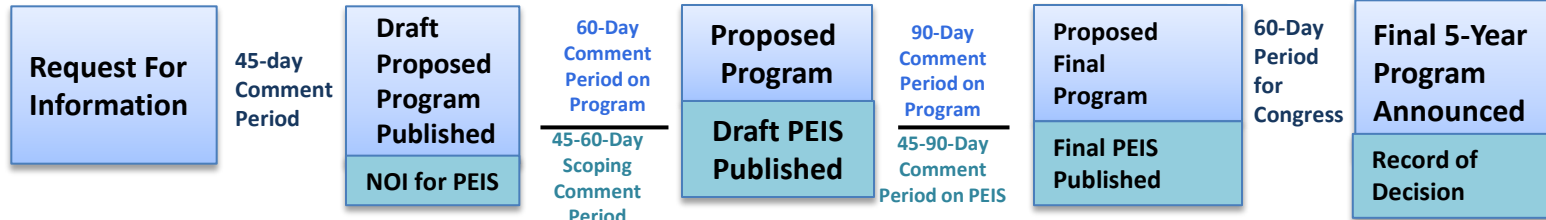


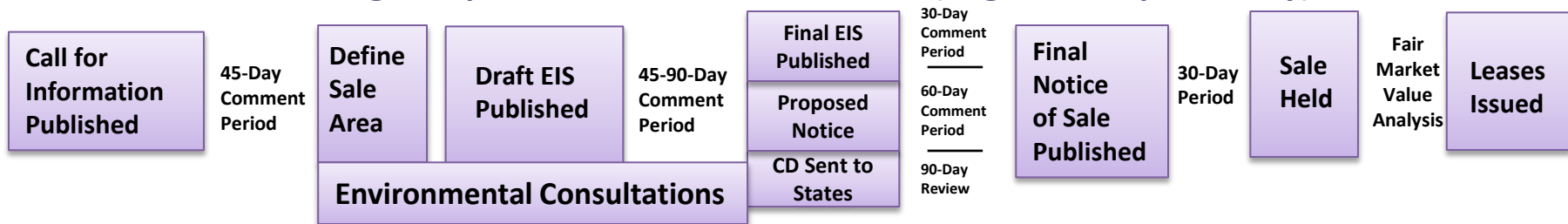
OCS Oil and Gas Leasing, Exploration, and Development Process

Pre-lease

Develop 5-Year Program (HQ Responsibility)

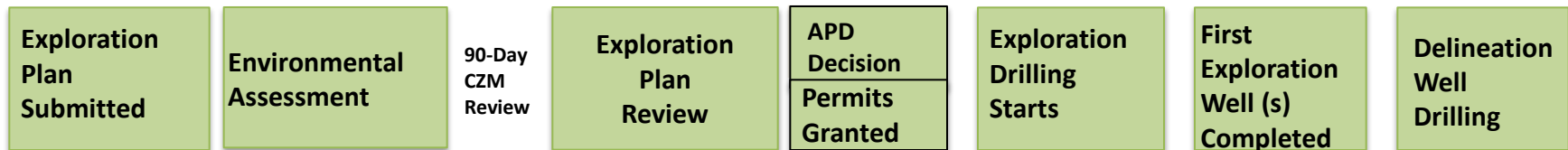


Planning for Specific Oil and Gas Lease Sale (Regional Responsibility)



Post Lease

Exploration Plan Approval (Regional Responsibility)



Development and Production Plan Approval (Regional Responsibility)



Five Year Program Analysis and Decision Documents

Process Phases

Section 18 of OCS Lands Act	NEPA
<p>I - <u>Request for Information (RFI)</u> is the first step in the mandated program preparation process. BOEM publishes a Federal Register notice simply requesting comments on the eight required balancing factors and any other specific issues from interested parties on all 26 OCS planning areas. No Specific Proposal is put forth.</p>	
<p>II – In the <u>Draft Proposed Program (DPP) Decision Document</u> information on all 26 OCS planning areas is presented; a draft proposal of the schedule of lease sales for the program is presented (narrowing from 26 planning areas); BOEM is required to seek comments from Governors. In addition, BOEM solicits comments from interested parties. <i>Once the areas are narrowed, they cannot be expanded without either starting over with the entire Five-Year Program Development Process or an act of Congress.</i></p>	<p>Publication of Notice of Intent to prepare PEIS followed by scoping comment period and public meetings</p>
<p>III - <u>Proposed Program (PP)</u> is the second program proposal Decision Document and is still in draft form. BOEM is required to submit the published PP to Congress, the Attorney General and Governors also, BOEM requests comments from all interested parties.</p>	<p>Publication of Draft PEIS followed by comment period and public meetings</p>
<p>IV - <u>Proposed Final Program (PFP)</u> is the third program proposal Decision Document; BOEM is required to submit this proposed leasing program to the President and Congress. BOEM provides for summary of all comments from States (including local governments) and Federal agencies and reasons why any recommendations from Governors, local governments or the Attorney General were not accepted.</p>	<p>Final PEIS is published followed by a Record of Decision</p>